

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Has any explanation been submitted by the members of the Election Commission for the delay in deciding the petition?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No; there is no question of delay and therefore no explanation was offered. The three Election Commissioners, they were all of them non-officials, made a request to Government that they might be paid such remuneration as the Government deemed fit. After careful consideration and enquiry of the procedure that is followed elsewhere, Government decided to pay to the Commissioners a remuneration amounting to Rs. 25 per day of sitting. It is at this rate that the amount has been calculated. I hope the House will pass the Demand.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): കഴിഞ്ഞ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് തയ്യാറാക്കിയ കാലത്തു ഗവണ്മെന്റിനു ഈ സംഗതിയെപ്പറ്റി ഓർമ്മയില്ലായിരുന്നെങ്കിലും?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The question as to whether any payment should be made or not was not decided then.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): എന്നാൽ ഇതു തീർച്ചപ്പെടുത്തണമെന്നു പറയാമോ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is only very recently.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): “റീസൻറലി” എന്ന് പറഞ്ഞാൽ മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നില്ല. വ്യക്തമായിട്ടു പറയണം.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It may be two or three weeks ago.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know the amount that was paid to the members of the Election Commission who decided the election case in Mr. Karayalar versus Krishnaswami Aiyar?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No payment has yet been made to any commissioners.

PRESIDENT: I take it that the House sanctions this Demand also?

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): There is a cut motion to the Demand by Mr. L. R. Rajaraja Varma Koiltampuran.

PRESIDENT: Do you move your motion, Mr. Tampuran?

MR. L. R. RAJA RAJA VARMA KOIL TAMPURAN (*Changanachery cum Peermade*): I do not move the motion.

PRESIDENT: I take it that the House sanctions this Demand also? The Demand was granted.

DEMAND No. IX—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Yakkil*): I beg to move for a supplementary grant not exceeding

Rs. 14,218 under Demand IX—Administration of Justice—for the continuance till the end of 1106 M. E. of the office of the Laws' Delays Commissioner. The office was sanctioned by this Council only till the end of December 1930.

It has since been found that the work the Commissioner has to do is much more laborious than was anticipated at first; it has therefore become necessary that the Commissioner should work for sometime longer. An estimate of the time that will be required for completing the work has been taken and it is found that the office will have to be continued till the end of this Malabar year. The amount now asked for represents the amount that is required for meeting the expenditure in connection with the continuance of the office.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): Does it mean that the work will be completed by the end of the year?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The hope is that the work will be completed by the time.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wish to know how many commissioners were appointed at first?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): One Commissioner and one Assistant Commissioner.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Are they, both of them, attending to this work now?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): There is a Secretary now instead of the Assistant Commissioner?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wish to know how long the Assistant Commissioner attended to this work? He seems to have discontinued. I also wish to know whether it has not contributed to the delay?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The absence of the Assistant Commissioner has not contributed to the delay. What the Commissioner now wants is more or less ministerial assistance, for which a Secretary has been appointed and he is doing the work. The Commissioner is a tried officer of sound judicial experience and great devotion to duty.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I should not be taken to suggest that the Commissioner has not got experience in judicial matters or that he is not devoted to his duty. Far from it. I only question the propriety of the arrangements temporarily made and I want to know whether this temporary arrangement has not disturbed the continuity of work and has therefore contributed to the delay?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It may be that the temporary arrangement has disturbed the continuity of work. But that has not contributed to the delay. All that the Commissioner just now wants is some ministerial assistance. The duties of the Assistant Commissioner are being attended to by the Commissioner himself.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): May I know from the Law Member whether the work will be completed within the time now proposed?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It is hoped that the work will be completed within the time. A rough estimate of all the stages of the work to be gone through has been prepared and according to this estimate the Commissioner hopes to finish the work within the time now proposed. That is all that could be stated now.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May I know what is the difference between the function of the Assistant Commissioner and that of the Secretary?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I cannot answer that question very definitely off-hand. But I conceive the Assistant Commissioner will take part in the examination of witnesses and also will sign the report as a member responsible for it. The Secretary will not.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May I know why a Secretary alone was found to be sufficient when the Assistant Commissioner is on other duty?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I have already answered the question. Just now the Commissioner wants only some ministerial assistance.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): "When the Commissioner takes evidence" will he be given an Assistant Commissioner?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I believe so.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Was the Commissioner taking evidence when the Assistant Commissioner worked?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): No; they were then preparing the questionnaire. The Assistant Commissioner interviewed various legal practitioners and tried to find out the method of work, before preparing the questionnaire. Then answers had to be received and statistics had to be tabulated. It was at that time that the Assistant Commissionership was discontinued and the Secretary appointed.

PRESIDENT: I take it that the House sanctions the Demand?
The Demand was granted.

DEMAND XX.—SCIENTIFIC AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant not exceeding Rs. 130 under Demand XX—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

This amount is required for the appointment of an Attender-mechanic on Rs. 20 per mensem, temporarily till the end of this year from the 16th Dhanu in the Astronomical Section of the Observatory.